

Nation

Indigenous

Education



Cree Nation AGA

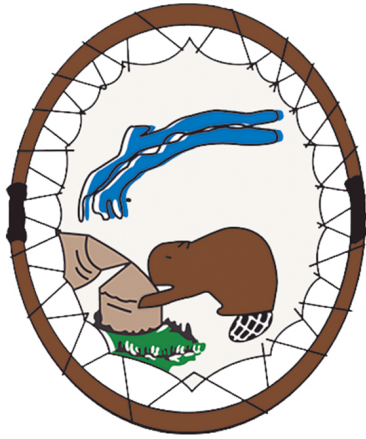
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and Deputy Grand
Chief Mandy Gull
on their victory!



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achievements for
Eeyou Istchee.
Good luck to
both of you in
your term.**



Congratulations!

To the Cree Nation of Eeyou
Istchee new Grand Chief Abel
Bosum and to new Deputy Grand
Chief Mandy Gull we wish you
both great successes!
Lets keep traditions and culture
alive while walking towards a
bright future.



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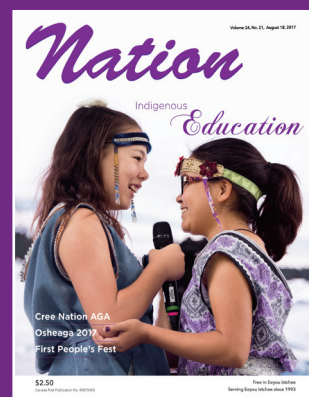


Photo provided by
WIPCE

Into the fog

by Will Nicholls



Whampagoostui is the northernmost Cree community and isn't accessible by road. The only ways to get to Great Whale are by boat and plane (or by skidoo, snowshoeing and dogsled in winter). Air travel is the only regular way to reach the community. This time of year makes any trip there an adventure as it's fog season. And the fog there really is as thick as pea soup.

One time, I was fogged in there for a week. Planes can only land by instrument in heavy fog and Air Creebec isn't set up for that. I don't regret being stranded in this community at the edge of the treeline, however. People there are very hospitable and I was thankful for that. I have always enjoyed my visits to Grande Baleine or, as some call it, Kuujuarapik. This community is the only one in Canada with four official names.

To make a short story long I hopped on a charter August 2 to witness the new Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull officially take their oaths of office. I was told we'd leave around 9 in the morning and be back in Montreal before 11 that same night.

Did I mention travelling to Whampagoostui was always an adventure? While leaving the AGA we were rushed to the airport and told to get on the Air Inuit plane as fast as possible in order to make all our stops. First Chibougamau, then Ottawa and finally Montreal. Our pilots were on a schedule that only allowed them so much flight time in a 24-hour period. Inuk



Inuk Captain Melissa Haney

Captain Melissa Haney is the first one of her people to become a pilot but once we were seated and ready to fly we got some bad news.

There was an electrical problem and we had to wait in the airport. A mechanic was flown in and repaired our ride out of Great Whale. As we had been waiting in the airport since a little after 7 pm a few people got hungry. With the big heart I've always known he had, Reggie Bosum broke open a box and brought out some smoked fish for his fellow passengers. Rez Notes writer Sonny Orr showed up wondering what was happening. I asked Sonny, who is the treasurer of the local social club, if they made deliveries. With a smile he informed me they did not.

After what seemed like countless hours we boarded the plane and found out we could only go as far as Radisson, a Hydro-Quebec work camp that has always been denied municipal status. We ended up checking into a hotel at 2:30 in the morning after spending time in good company catching up on changes and making new friends.

The next day we managed to make it to the airport and I arrived home at 4 in the afternoon glad to finally change my socks and other delicate parts of my wardrobe. Both the Grand Council staff and Air Inuit were great in our time of need.

Once again did I mention visiting Whampagoostui was always an adventure but one that's never regretted?



AFN gathering addresses **MMIWG** difficulties

Inquiries about the Inquiry

by Dan Isaac

Big issues at the 38th Assembly of First Nations annual general assembly held in Regina July 25-27 included the MMIWG Inquiry and the recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and National Chief Perry Bellegarde.

The MOU calls for three annual meetings to be held between Canada and the AFN Executive Committee, one of which will be chaired by Trudeau.

Two resolutions were presented on the MMIWG Inquiry; one was adopted while the other was defeated on the floor. The first, presented by Quebec and Ontario chiefs on behalf of families, called for a major redesign of the Inquiry.

The defeated resolution called for the resignation of the four remaining MMIWG commissioners. A lack of consensus on the side of the families ultimately led to its defeat.

"BC families weren't present to have their say," a source told *the Nation*. "The other question was, if the Yukon has already had their public hearing what happens to [their statements] if the remaining commissioners are removed?"

This year's AFN AGA had a record 2007 registered delegates, involved

four federal ministers and saw 62 resolutions presented, 60 passed, 1 defeated, 1 withdrew – eight shy of the record 70, set last year in Niagara Falls.

Also attending were several federal cabinet members, including Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, a former AFN Regional Chief for BC; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett; Environment Minister Catherine McKenna; and Public Security Minister Ralph Goodale. Finance Minister Bill Morneau attended the Thursday session for a side meeting with the National Chief and Regional Executive.

There was also a resolution in protest of the signing of the MOU, but it was diplomatically withdrawn before it was presented on the floor. "There are those with doubts about the MOU with the Prime Minister," said AFNQL Regional Chief Ghislain Picard. "Whether or not it will be fruitful remains to be seen, but there are many saying, 'Let's seize this opportunity.'"

This year, there was a noticeable lack of Cree participation at the AFN assembly. Last year saw Philip Awashish, one of the principal negotiators of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, give a presentation on "Moving Beyond the Indian

Act". His vision was fully realized mere weeks before the AGA with the signing of the Cree Governance Agreement.

With the new agreement in place and the Grand Council's AGA happening just days after the AFN's, it was understandable that Cree presence was lacking. According to Picard, the absence was a matter of circumstance.

"To me, it's very important the Cree Nation stay connected to the AFN because they have important insights to provide to other nations in the process of moving beyond the Indian Act," he commented.

Picard believes the AFN provides an invaluable service.

"Every First Nation is faced with the same challenge: how do we hold governments accountable to their obligations towards our Nations? There are First Nations to the west and in the Yukon who have similar situations to the Cree, and there is a great opportunity for facing challenges and sharing opportunities," Picard noted.

"At these times, First Nations are at a crossroads in the resetting of their relationship with Canada and the provinces. NAFTA, for example, is being renegotiated, and we know now that Canada has left space for First Nations to be represented."

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW LEADERS!

We extend our sincere congratulations to both Grand Chief Abel Bosum and to Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull on their elections.

May the Cree Nation continue to thrive under your leadership.

We wish you all the best!



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If you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact the Correctional Services Regional Office in Val-d'Or at 819-874-2600 or by email at justice.valdor@cngov.ca

www.creejustice.ca



Dreaming big

Photo & Story by Xavier Kataquapit

Wabun Youth Gathering emphasizes post-secondary education

The Wabun Youth Gathering celebrated its 11th year with venues at Laurentian University in Sudbury for seniors and the wilderness lakeside resort setting of Horwood Lake Lodge west of Timmins for juniors. More than 36 senior youth participated in the educational event July 24-28 at Laurentian University while 56 Wabun junior youth attended the event at the wilderness gathering July 17-21.

The event was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services and Health Canada and coordinated by Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

"This year we wanted to introduce our senior Wabun Tribal Council youth to the options and opportunities available to them in higher education. We wanted them to experience what a university campus was like, to inform them about the assistance available for higher education and to provide them with interesting and action packed experiences," explained Naveau.

Randi Lynn Ray, a Wabun member who is also part of Laurentian's Indigenous Student Affairs department, provided a presentation on campus life,

the various forms of assistance available and care and guidance provided at the university. Julia Pegahmagabow, who also works for the university featured a workshop on cultural and traditional teachings. A writing contest sponsored by Xavier Kataquapit awarded top prize to Kiara Constant, second place to Jacy Jolivet, third place to Hannah Saunders and runner up prizes to Neebin Prince, Brooke Collins, Mylina Tangie and Nigel Neshawabin.

The senior youth participated in a challenge course, canoe trip and swimming and traditional craft making activities. They also had a tour of the university campus and visited Science North and Dynamic Earth.

"I really enjoyed being able to experience what it would be like to go to a university like Laurentian. There was a lot of good information provided and that should help me with any planning for my continued education. I also enjoyed all of the activities and making new friends from other Wabun First Nations," commented Meegan Nahwegezhic, a Matachewan First Nation member living in Kirkland Lake.

The junior event featured traditional and cultural teachings through arts and crafts, horseback riding, fishing, water activities and fun on an inflatable obstacle course and bubble soccer event.

Wabun Health Director Jean Lemieux encouraged senior youth to consider post secondary education. "We need you to move ahead with education to take over from us in health care, administration, teaching and positions in the trades," commented Lemieux.

The event was made possible through the vision and dream of Wabun Elder Thomas Saunders of Brunswick House First Nation who lobbied for a youth gathering to support the young people of Wabun Tribal Council. Sadly, he passed away before his dream came to be but his legacy lives on.

Wabun Tribal Council is a regional organization representing the First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in Northeastern Ontario and is directed by the chiefs of each community.

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MMIWG Inquiry loses another major player

Yet another high-profile Indigenous figure has stepped down from Canada's National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This time the team lost Waneek Horn-Miller, its director of community engagement, who said she is leaving to focus on her family.

Horn-Miller is a Mohawk, a former Olympian and a survivor of the Oka Crisis in 1990 where she was stabbed by a bayonet during an altercation with a Canadian soldier. She is leaving a key role at the Inquiry, as a number of family members of victims, activists and academics have criticized its lack of outreach and transparency. Several signed an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau demanding a hard reset to the "deeply misguided" inquiry.

"They have continually dismissed our concerns, refused to take steps to rebuild trust, and have maintained a deeply misguided approach that imposes a harmful, colonial process on us," says the letter. "This has and continues to create trauma as well as insecurity and a lack of safety for our families, communities, and loved ones."

Aside from Horn-Miller, the inquiry has lost director of communications Sue Montgomery, manager of community relations Tanya Kappo (a founding member of Idle No More), original commissioner Marilyn Poitras and executive director Michele Moreau.



Stingray Music partners with APTN

Stingray Music has announced a partnership with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), Native Communications Inc. (NCI-FM Manitoba) and First Peoples Radio (FPR) in Ottawa and Toronto to bring the music of artists from Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to a worldwide audience via two television streaming channels.

As of a July 26 press conference in Montreal, users of the Stingray Music mobile app can now listen to channels such as "Aboriginal Music from Canada – Contemporary" and "Aboriginal Music from Canada – Retro". Both promote Native musicians and stream their songs to listeners across the globe.

Stingray celebrated the new partnership as a way to "maintain and strengthen its position as the only streaming service dedicated to promoting Canadian music from Coast to Coast to Coast, at home and abroad."

"We could not claim to be a truly Canadian music service without promoting the talent of our country's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities," said Mathieu Pélouquin, Senior Vice-President, Marketing and Communications of Stingray. "We are truly honoured that APTN, NCI-FM Manitoba, and FPR choose Stingray as a partner to share the vitality of their music with the world."

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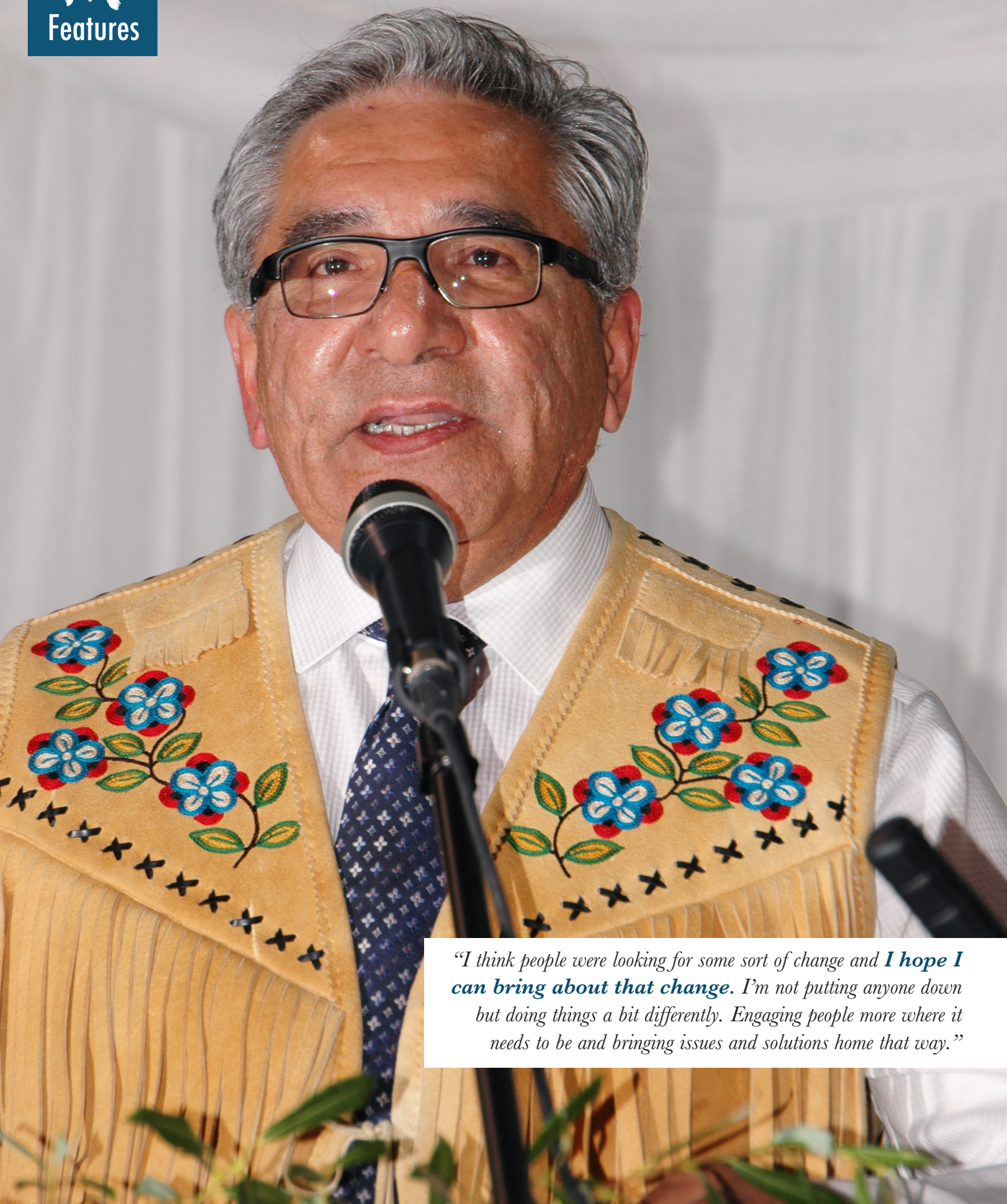
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*"I think people were looking for some sort of change and **I hope I can bring about that change.** I'm not putting anyone down but doing things a bit differently. Engaging people more where it needs to be and bringing issues and solutions home that way."*

MEET THE NEW BOSS

Abel Bosum takes over at Cree AGA in Whapmagoostui

by Will Nicholls

Newly elected Grand Chief Abel Bosum's presided over his first Annual General Assembly as Grand Chief August 1-3 in Whapmagoostui, where *the Nation* spoke to new Cree leaders about his election victory.

Bosum said he felt validated by the response at the AGA to some of his election platform priorities.

"There were a lot of people talking about what was important to them," said Bosum. "I think people were looking for some sort of change and I hope I can bring about that change. I'm not putting anyone down but doing things a bit differently. Engaging people more where it needs to be and bringing issues and solutions home that way."

Bosum felt the AGA went well even though there were some mishaps on his part. "I noticed that people were very respectful, happy and full of laughter at my mistakes," Bosum said with a laugh. "I called some people by the wrong names. I'm thankful everyone had a sense of humour."

Bosum said he looked forward to his term as Grand Chief and was busy putting together a team to implement his election promises, including how to improve services to the Cree communities. He wants to ensure people are fully informed so that they "are a part of the governance process." Governance will be on the agenda at the next council/board meeting, he noted.

"There will more than likely be an increase in staff to ensure this all happens," Bosum stated.

Executive Director Bill Namagoose made a presentation on the Cree Nation Governance Agreement and the Cree Constitution at the AGA. "We are the strongest when we invoke our rights in responding to governments and weakest when we squabble amongst ourselves," Namagoose said. He went on to warn that care should be taken with special

interest groups demanding seats on the Cree Nation Government.

"We must limit the power to govern only to those that are elected by the Cree people at local and national levels," he stated, adding that representatives must also be held accountable and transparent at all times.

Bosum told *the Nation* he sees economic development and job creation as one of the Cree Nation's priorities. He wants Cree people and communities to have the ability to access contracts in Eeyou Istchee.

"Besides putting together programs to help local businesses, the small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs, I also see us sitting down with the Government of Quebec to look at those legislations, particularly the Procurement Legislation," said Bosum.

"Public tendering is not helping us and is not allowing us to build capacity. We need to negotiate some amendments to that legislation to make JBNQA section 28.10 dealing with provincial contracts and employment a reality. Right now we are having to negotiate on a case by case basis. We need to find a better way."

Bosum wants to help Cree entrepreneurs obtain the necessary qualifications and permits that would enable them to bid for contracts without having to work under a general contractor or consultant. "A good portion of the contracts should be awarded to Cree businesses and communities," he said.

Social priorities

Alongside Bosum's economic priorities, the Grand Council has also created a committee that will study social issues. Noting that Quebec has requested a social development plan from the Cree Nation, Bosum said the GCC is gathering information on currently available services and resources for a report to be issued in September.

"From that report we will be able to see what's missing and from there we hope to put together a social development plan that we would present to the government this fall," said Bosum.

A major file is the provincial inquiry looking at relations with Indigenous Peoples and certain public services. GCC Director of Quebec Relations Melissa Saganash said phase 2 will be starting in September and continue until late October. While they will be talking with entities and organizations, individual Indigenous men and women can also participate. More information is available at: www.cerp.gouv.qc.ca.

Housing availability and affordability was another concern at the AGA. In particular, trappers are vulnerable, Bosum observed.

"Trappers are people we expect to live out on the land, occupy the land and at the same time we expect them to pay for their houses and other services in the community" he said. "With the kind of income they have it's almost impossible to expect that from anybody."

To assist them, Bosum will meet with Cree entities that provide services for the trappers to "get a grasp of what we have. Then I want to invite Quebec to the table to see how we can increase the trappers' level of income."

Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull were sworn in to their new positions August 2. Both Bosum and Gull thanked their spouses and the many people who supported them which of course included the Cree who voted.

They also acknowledged the other candidates in this year's election. There was more than one standing ovation for both Bosum and Gull. It was the honeymoon start of their terms, and many attending the AGA were optimistic that the next four years see many goals realized for the Cree Nation.

Draft Resolutions

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government
Annual General Assembly

Resolution 2017-10: Honorarium for Members of the Board of Compensation of the Cree Nation Government

WHEREAS by a Resolution adopted at an Assembly of the Board of Compensation of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government on July 13, 2017, the members of the Board of Compensation of the Cree Nation Government proposed to increase the regular honorarium to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) per day and three hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) respectively, including a five thousand dollar (\$5,000.00) annual retainer;



WHEREAS the Resolution establishing the honoraria to be paid to Board of Compensation members can only have effect when it is approved at a meeting of the members, for greater clarity an Assembly of the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government

pursuant to an *Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031*;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly hereby ratify and authorize an honorarium of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) per day for regular meeting and three hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) for a travel day, including a five thousand (\$5,000.00) annual retainer for the members of the Board of Compensation of the Cree Nation Government, pursuant to an *Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031*.

Proposed by: Chief Davey Bobbish
Seconded by: Chief Curtis Bosum
Carried: August 1, 2017

Resolution 2017-11: Honorarium for Members of the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Council of the Cree Nation Government

WHEREAS by a Resolution adopted by the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government on July 25, 2017 the members of the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Council of the Cree Nation

Government proposed to increase the regular honorarium from five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) for travel day to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) per day and three hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) respectively;

WHEREAS the Resolution establishing the honoraria to be paid to Board/Council members can only have effect when it is approved at a meeting of the members, for greater clarity an Assembly of the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government pursuant to an *Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031*;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly hereby ratify and authorize the decision to increase the regular honorarium from five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) for travel day to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) per day and three hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) respectively pursuant to an *Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031*.

Proposed by: John Shem
Seconded by: Frank Atsynia
Carried August 1, 2017

Resolution 2017-12: Cree Nation of Nemaska – Construction of New Local Youth Administration Building

WHEREAS during a General Band meeting held on July 20, 2017, the members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska mandated the delegates selected to attend the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government (GCC(EI)/CNG) to request the Cree Nation members support with regards to the allocation of funding for the construction of a 10,000-square foot Youth Administration Building;

WHEREAS the delegates of the Cree Nation of Nemaska have presented the plans proposed for the construction of a new Youth Administration Building in Nemaska;

WHEREAS in 2009-2016 the former Nemaska Youth Centre was closed and condemned due to the deteriorating state of the building;

WHEREAS in 2017 the former Youth Centre was demolished;

WHEREAS since the closure of the former Youth Centre, the Nemaska Youth have not had a proper gathering place;

WHEREAS the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG deem it appropriate and necessary for the Cree Nation of Nemaska to receive funding for the construction of the proposed Youth Administration Building;



BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby support the Cree Nation of Nemaska's proposed plans for a new 10,000-square feet Youth Administration Building as presented during this Assembly;

THAT the members of the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby recommend to the Board/Council of the Crees(Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to approve the allocation of the funding required to build the proposed Nemaska Youth Administration Building during its meeting held in December 2017 where funds under the Cree-Canada New Relationship Agreement are allocated for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Proposed by: Simeon Wapachee
Seconded by: William Chiskamish
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-13: Cree Nation of Nemaska – Capital of the Cree Nation

WHEREAS during a General Band meeting held on July 20, 2017, the members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska have expressed their concerns regarding priority given to bigger communities with regards to funding and the lack of support (financial and other) given to Nemaska even though it is the Cree Nation Capital;

WHEREAS during the above-mentioned General Band meeting, the members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska mandated the delegates selected to attend the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government (GCC(EI)/CNG) to confirm the Cree Nation of Nemaska as the Capital of the Cree Nation and to support its request for additional resources and support to ensure that the



Community is able to accommodate the needs required of a Capital;

WHEREAS during an Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG held in Mistissini, the members selected the Cree Nation of Nemaska as the location for the head office of the Cree Nation Government (then known as the Cree Regional Authority) therefore becoming the Capital of the Cree Nation;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Nemaska is conveniently located in the heart of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG deem it appropriate to confirm the Cree Nation of Nemaska as the Capital of the Cree Nation and to support the request from the Cree Nation of Nemaska to receive additional support;



BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby confirm the location of the head office of the Cree Nation Government in the

Community of Nemaska and confirms the Cree Nation of Nemaska as the Capital of the Cree Nation;

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby mandate the Board/Council of the Crees(Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to provide to the Cree Nation of Nemaska additional financial assistance in order to accommodate the head office of the Cree Nation Government and to ensure that the Cree Nation of Nemaska properly reflects and represents the Cree Nation as a whole.

Proposed by: Chief Thomas Jolly
Seconded by: Susan Esau
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-14: Cree Nation of Nemaska - Relocation Claim

WHEREAS during the Local Annual General Assembly held on August 22, 23 and 24, 2016, the members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska have expressed their wish to address its claim for the suffering and traumatic experiences caused by the their displacement and relocation which in turn has resulted in negative cultural, social and economic impacts on the Community of Nemaska;

WHEREAS during a General Band meeting held on July 20, 2017, the members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska have mandated the delegates selected to attend the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of

the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government (GCC(EI)/CNG) to request the Cree Nation members support with regards to their claim;

WHEREAS in 1970 Nemaska Eenouch were forced to leave the Old Nemaska Post located on the shores of Lake Nemiscau and were divided into two groups, some choosing to relocate to Mistissini and others to Waskaganish for the following reasons which were out of their control;

- In 1967 Hydro-Quebec announced plans for the hydroelectric development project in the drainage-basins of the Nottaway, Broadback and Rupert rivers and told Nemaska Eenouch to clear out to make way for the flooding of Lake Nemiscau;
- In or about 1970, the Hudson Bay Company (H.B.C.) closed their store at the Old post;
- Both H.B.C. and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada wanted the Nemaska Eenouch to relocate to either Mistissini or Waskaganish as it would be cheaper administratively.

WHEREAS the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement signed in 1975 provided for the return of Nemaska Eenouch on their traditional lands; however, its provisions imposed constraints such as no additional funds for the creation of a new village as well as conditions regarding the location of the community, the number of members relocating and the time frame for relocation;

WHEREAS in 1977 the Nemaska Eenouch reunited on the shores of Champion Lake to map out a plan for the development of the Community of Nemaska;

WHEREAS 40 years later and following hard work and perseverance, the Nemaska Eenouch surpassed its vision for a community created during the consult held in 1977;

WHEREAS in 2008, the GCC(EI)/CNG signed an Agreement concerning a New Relationship with the federal agreement which included a provision (Section 5.3b) indicating that the GCC(EI)/CNG accepted responsibility on all settlements, claims and grievances regarding many matters including the displacement and relocation of the Nemaska Eenouch;

WHEREAS the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG deem it appropriate and just to ensure that the Nemaska Eenouch be properly compensated for the price they have paid for being relocated twice in such a small period of time and in mean historical conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby mandate the Board/Council of the Crees(Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to acknowledge and address the claim brought forth by the Cree Nation of Nemaska with regards to its displacement and relocation from its original post located

on the shores of Lake Nemiscau to its new site located on the shores of Champion Lake.

Proposed by: Chief Kenneth Cheezo
Seconded by: Susan Esau
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-15: Works on James Bay Highway

WHEREAS the delegates of the second Annual Assembly of the Board of Compensation strongly believe in being active participants in all economic development within Eeyou Istchee.

WHEREAS the announced repairs of the James Bay Highway represent an important opportunity for such economic development.

WHEREAS this assembly adopted a Resolution to seek set aside contracts for the works to be done on James Bay Highway;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby mandate the Board/Council to take measures to facilitate the favour of Cree entrepreneurs in the awarding of contracts related to the refurbishment of the James Bay Highway while seeking improvements of other important infrastructure such as the Route du Nord or the potential access road to Whapmagoostui.

Proposed by: Chief Kenneth Cheezo

Seconded by: William Chiskamish
Carried: August 1, 2017

Resolution 2017-16: Emergency Measures in Eeyou Eenou Istchee

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Councils of Eeyou Eenou Istchee, as part of the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees, are a sovereign nation governed under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;

WHEREAS each Cree community has the responsibility to protect its community members from emergency situations that may occur at a local, regional, national, and international level.

WHEREAS emergency measures plans are in place in Eeyou Eenou Istchee;

WHEREAS it is necessary for all Cree Nation management to attend/engage in the planning process, training activities and exercises (simulations) with respect to emergency situations;

WHEREAS we have experienced many emergency situations in Eeyou Eenou Istchee in the past – for example, the Eastmain Fire Evacuation in 2013 – many people were affected from loss of cabins, and the H1N1 pandemic in 2009: where 300 people were infected with 1 death; everyone has a role to play!

WHEREAS it is becoming more necessary than ever to have participation and input from the man-



agement level in the emergency planning and participation at emergency management meetings and trainings and to be fully engaged in the protection of the health and wellbeing of our people;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Cree Nation Government, Chief and Council of the Cree Nations of Eeyou Istchee hereby identify and summon the following key personnel within these departments and organization to participate/engage fully in the Emergency Preparedness Committee:

Chief of the Community; Deputy Chief of the Community; Fire Chief; Police Lieutenant; Director General of operations; Local Director of the CBHSSJB; Director of Environment; Land and Environment Officer/Administrator; Director of Community Development; Director of Transportation; Director of Public Works; Director of Communication (Officer); Director of Human Resources; Director of Public Safety / Officer; Public Security Officer; Public Health Officer; Wildlife Protection Officer; Director / President local Cree Trappers Association; Airport Manager

THAT if any of the above named key personnel is unavailable or is unable to act the next highest ranking person in the department or organization will carry out the duties of the named key personnel until such time as they are available or capable of acting;

THAT all Chiefs and Councils of the Cree Nations of Eeyou

Istchee make it mandatory for their personnel to fully engage in the development of emergency measures planning.

Proposed by: Thomas Coon
Seconded by: Chief Kenneth Cheezo
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-17: Regional Youth Work Experience Program

WHEREAS Youth need to be able to explore their options by way of job shadowing and temporary internships on career opportunities that are available in the Cree Communities.

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Youth Council wishes to take steps to clarify its relationship and opportunities for collaboration with the Cree Nation Government;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly recommend that the Board/Council develop the Cree Nation Government develop a regional Youth Work Experience Program to assist in the career building of the Cree Nation Youth;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly recommend that programs be developed to all the Youth of Eeyou Istchee to participate in Youth Internship

Programs and Job Shadowing at Cree Nation Government, Cree School Board, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, Eeyou/Eenou Police Force, local Band Offices and other local entities.

Proposed by: Chief Curtis Bosum
Seconded by: Thomas Coon
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-18: Review of the Cree Nation Government By-Law Relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of Construction Contracts

WHEREAS the Local General Assembly of the Cree Nation of Mistissini held on July 26, 2017, adopted a Resolution calling for a request to the Cree Nation Government to review and adopt changes to the By-Law Relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of Construction Contracts to ensure that Crees and Cree entrepreneurs are properly favoured;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the members of the 2016-2017 Annual General Assembly of the GCC(EI)/CNG hereby mandate the Board/Council hereby recommend that the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government review and adopt changes to the By-Law Relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of

Construction Contracts to ensure that Crees and Cree entrepreneurs are properly favoured.

Proposed by: John Shem
Seconded by: Chief Kenneth Cheezo
Carried: August 3, 2017

Resolution 2017-19: Integrated Strategic Plan for Cree Culture and Language Preservation

WHEREAS numerous Cree entities have evolved since signing of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement Treaty that have a key role to preserve Cree culture and Cree Language in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS culture binds a community to past, present and future collective experiences of the physical surroundings and interactions with others, and that the arts play a major role in creating those experiences and events enable communities to interact and have fun.

WHEREAS *culture* refers to the following **Ways of Life for the Cree**, including but not limited to:

- **Language:** the oldest human institution and the most sophisticated medium of expression.
- **Arts & Sciences:** the most advanced and refined forms of human expression.
- **Thought:** the ways in which people perceive, interpret, and understand the world around them.
- **Spirituality:** the value system transmitted through generations for the inner well-being of human beings,

expressed through language and actions.

- **Social activity:** the shared pursuits within a cultural community, demonstrated in a variety of festivities and life-celebrating events.
- **Interaction:** the social aspects of human contact, including the give-and-take of socialization, negotiation, protocol, and conventions.

WHEREAS a concerted delivery of a diverse cultural activities and program from all entities of arts and performance arts activities, and the provision of adequate facilities that cater for audiences across the Eeyou Istchee enhances the Cree culture and encourage engagement with arts and cultural activities

WHEREAS establishment and operation of adequate Cultural Centres (Eeyou Istchee Entertainment Centres) will curate inclusive annual programs which celebrate and welcome diverse communities

WHEREAS Eeyou Istchee Libraries or community resource centres will create opportunities for diverse communities to be welcomed and celebrated in appropriate ways;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government 43rd / 40th Annual General Assembly hereby recommend to the Board/Council to:

- **Undertake** projects to integrate the *Strategic Planning Works Program*



with the Cree First Nations local governments including non-governmental organizations to establish and implement a framework with all Cree entities with a common goal to maintain and enhance Cree Nation's cultural heritage and the preservation of Eeyou Yimuun (Cree Language);

- **Provide** adequate resources and support to encourage engagement with arts and cultural activities to the following section 28 JBNQA treaty entities:
 - a. Cree Trappers Association;
 - b. Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association;
 - c. Cree Outfitting Tourism Association;
 - d. Cree Cultural Institute (Aanischaukamikw);
 - e. And other regional and local culturally oriented entities, such as the Elders' Councils;
- Provide appropriate cultural facilities and resources that encourage life-long learning and opportunities for cultural and leisure interests;

Proposed by: John Shem
Seconded by: Chief Kenneth Cheezo
Carried: August 3, 2017



The Chief and Council Members of MoCreebec Eeyoud would like to extend our congratulations to the newly elected Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull. We look forward to working with you both as you move forward in leading the people of Eeyou Istchee. God Bless.

Chief Allan Jolly and Council

Culture in the classroom



Toronto conference hones the cutting edge of **Indigenous schooling**

by Ben Powless | Photos provided by WIPCE

Delegates from across the world, including several from the Cree School Board and the Cree Department of Justice and Correctional Services, gathered in Toronto in July to take part in the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE).

Hosted by Six Nations Polytechnic and TAP Resources, participants were welcomed to Six Nations territory by hundreds of Indigenous education representatives in their traditional regalia. Maori dancers dressed in all black, Hawaiian dancers in flowing dresses, and Saami singers from northern Scandinavia provided a strong cultural foundation for the five-day gathering.

For Cree School Board Chairperson Kathleen Wootton, it was an important chance to see what was happening with First Nations education trends, especially with land-based education programs in other parts of Canada and the world that could be integrated into local schools.

Held in a different country every three years, the conference was timely for the Cree School Board as it is currently reviewing



Free School Board

the Nation 21



Taapwaauchaayimiisu Believe In Yourself

OUR PROGRAM

Taapwaauyimiisu (Believe in yourself) program is a resource available for the schools in the three Cree communities, where the pilot project is currently being launched . We offer support to the students' ages 12 to 17 years old who, for various reasons, are temporarily suspended from 3 to 5 days from school.

The expression **“Believe in yourself”** is dear to our program as we want to send a strong message of empowerment and self-worth to our youth.

OUR SERVICE SITES

Taapwaauchaayimiisu program in Mistissini has officially moved in their new service site at the Family Resource Centre (Old Youth Centre). Thank you, Cree Nation of Mistissini, for your collaboration in providing space for our youth.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended our open houses in Waskaganish and Chisasibi.

Should you require more information, please contact the coordinator.

Tel: (819) 527-0407

E-mail: Byyourself@cngov.ca



Cree culture directly in his office’s day-to-day services. He also wants to reinforce the importance of supporting experiential learning, supporting students transitioning to city life, and that formal schooling cannot be a substitute for Cree wisdom or abilities.

Wootton was optimistic based on progress she’s seen thus far in getting more students to graduate, but admitted there were still a number of challenges.

“Our goals are to produce more graduates, and to get more parents and community involvement, which is something many First Nations are looking at. But residential schools had such a traumatic impact that many people didn’t want to get involved with education. Now, people are slowly coming back to realize the importance of being involved to help their children succeed.”

Asked about plans to attend the next conference in Australia in 2020, both Diamond and Wootton were enthusiastic.

“I want to go. I want to present. I want to represent. I want to go learn more. I’ve already started saving,” said Diamond.

Wootton said she hopes to attend, even if she is no longer serving as Chairperson of the Cree School Board after her term ends this year. “I’d still like to go and see it – and by then hopefully the School Board will have developed something that we can share with other Indigenous educators.”

“Residential schools had such a traumatic impact that many people didn’t want to get involved with education. Now, people are slowly coming back to realize the importance of being involved to help their children succeed.”

- Cree School Board Chairperson Kathleen Wootton





LIGHT TO CULTURE

First People's Fest explores issues of Indigenous identity

by Julie McIntosh | Photo by Mario Faubert

Aboriginal culture and recognition was celebrated during the 27th First People's Festival in Montréal August 2-9 with films, live music and art installations that showcased multi-disciplinary Indigenous art from around the globe.

The opening gala at the BanQ National Library was in part organized by the Aboriginal Peoples News Network (APTN) to highlight emerging cinematographers who create contemporary Indigenous short films.

Emerging themes from this year's festival were poignant. Issues on the topic of Indigenous identity – from racism to reconciliation, to recognition and embracing the future – were prevailing topics of discussion. Though contemporary and indigenous cultures are crossing paths, the fight for understanding one another is still an ongoing process.

Some films, like *Creatura Data*, directed by Outaouais artist Caroline Monnet, recognized a clash between the old and the coming of the new. It showcased six indigenous women having a culinary feast with food staples from regions across Canada.

El Camino es Largo, a short film directed by Guatemalan filmmaker Edgar Sajcabun, is about a Mayan boy who runs late for school because he was distracted by a fish. He is ultimately reprimanded by having his hair cut.

God Acre, directed by Kelton Stepanowich, won the APTN award for best short film. Frank, played by Lorne Cardinal, is an ardent landowner who refuses to leave his ancestral home threatened by the rising water levels that accompany climate change. He slowly comes to terms with his existential reality and finally accepts the external forces that has us gripping to, and sometimes letting go of, tradition.

During the First Peoples' Festival, multi-media used for storytelling embraced rather than overshadowed stories of culture and tradition. Caroline Monnet and collaborator Sébastien Aubin featured a digital mural paneled across the UQÀM building facing Place des Arts that tells an abstract story of brotherly love with shadow and light.

The stop-motion, mixed-medium film *Hands to the Sky*, directed by Elisabeth

LaPensee with music from the Métis Fiddler Quartet, brings to light the detrimental effects from the oil industry by merging photography, drawing, animation and painting. It's a dark story of a healing process: from the influx of industry and barren lands to the reappearance of animals, life and light.

New media helps increase accessibility to Aboriginal stories and storytelling, argues Montréal First Peoples Festival director André Dudemaine. "I think that if people want to live on this territory, they need to connect to the ancient culture of their region in order to better comprehend who they are," he said.

Legends brought to life

The festival was further proof that tradition in storytelling is evolving, growing stronger and finding its presence in contemporary culture.

Pierre-Paul Savoie, owner of PPS Dance in Montréal, choreographed the opening dance for the Great Game of Creation, an evening spectacle at Place des Arts August 2-6. Animal and earth dancers set the scene as a hunter chased volunteers and dancers mimicking deer up to the stage.

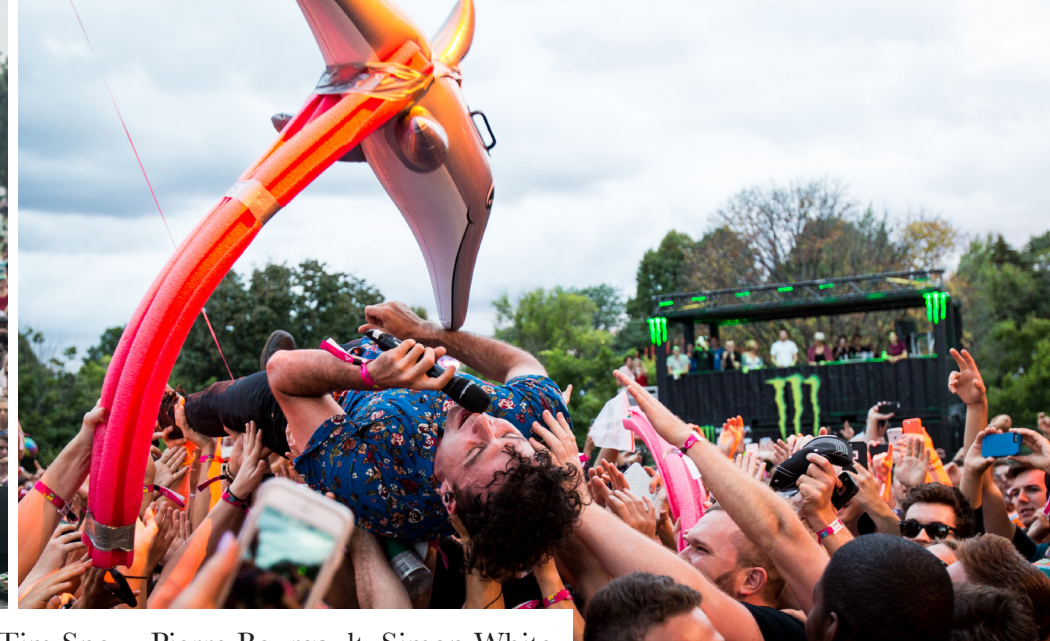
The most prominent figures, however, were the two, 20-foot tall puppets commissioned as part of the telling of the loskeha and Tawiscara legend.

There are varied versions of the legend. One is a story of two rival brothers of opposing water and fire elements forging the world as we know it through their rivalry. As one bled volcanic fire and the other cried, together they forged a great river.

Added to the story was the Peace Tree, which is a symbol of peace, allegiance and gathering among the Iroquois Nations native to the island of Montreal.

This multi-disciplinary art is a present and prevailing force in contemporary storytelling. As new mediums for sharing are used by Indigenous artists, tradition and culture find their way in new versions of history. Like the forging of the river by the brothers loskeha and Tawiskaha, good can come from unearthing the past. It takes mindful and thoughtful effort to seed the tree and call for a peaceful gathering in honour of Indigenous heritage.

Though contemporary and indigenous cultures are crossing paths, the fight for understanding one another is still an **ongoing process**.

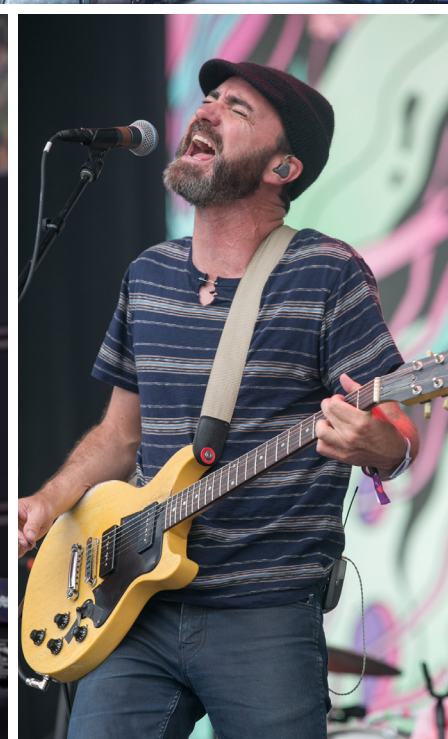


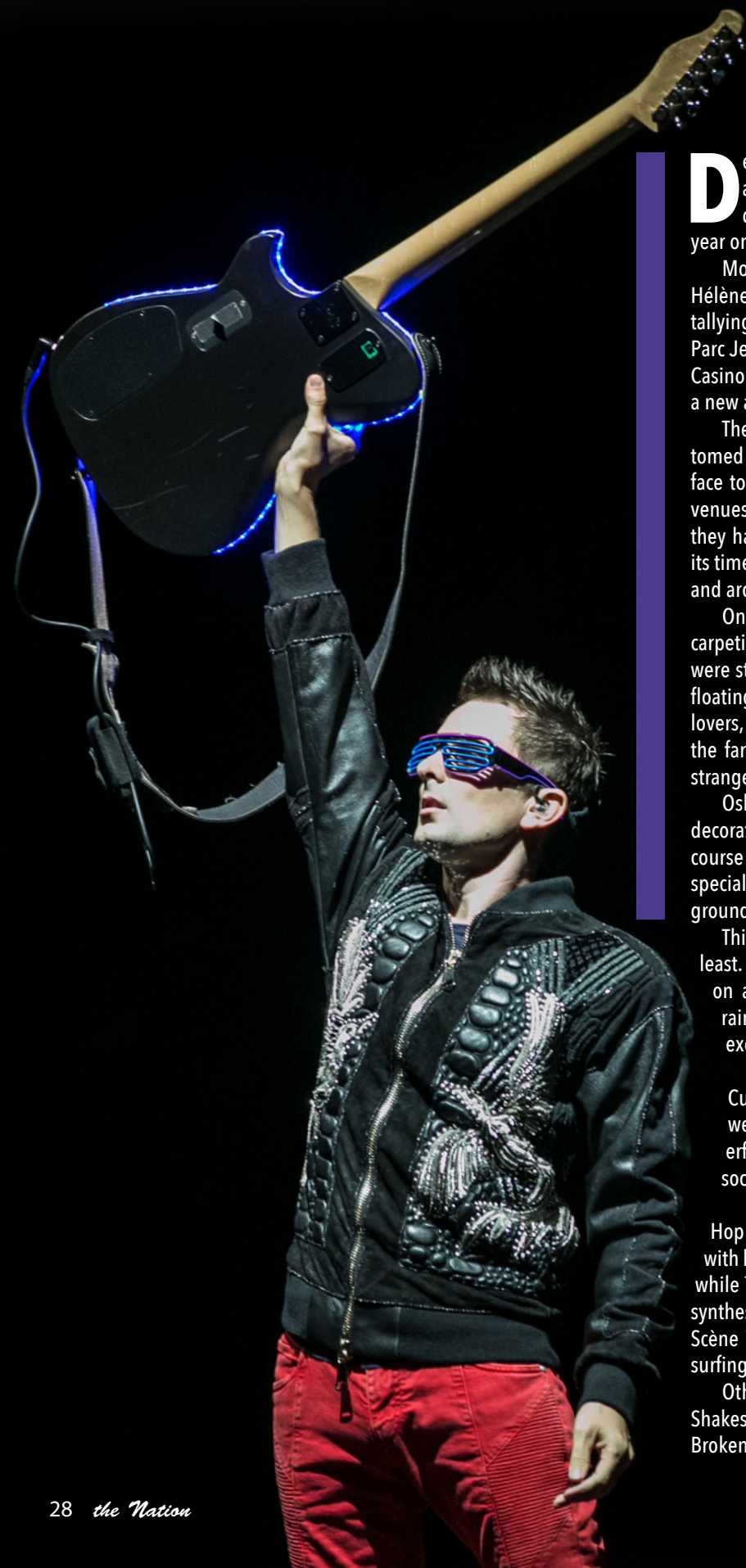
the Nation STORMING OSHEAGA

Photos by Pat Beaudry, Tim Snow, Pierre Bourgault, Simon White



Montreal's biggest
music fest **climaxes
in euphoria** despite
climatic challenges
by Dan Isaac & Joshua Grant





Despite inclement weather, some high-profile cancellations (Solange, De La Soul and Lil' Uzi Vert) and a change of venue, Osheaga still impressed in its 12th year on the festival circuit.

Montreal's foremost music festival held on Île Sainte-Hélène attracted a comparable crowd to last year's, with Evenko tallying 135,000 people in attendance. Though still located in Parc Jean-Drapeau, a new temporary venue near the Montreal Casino housed this year's edition, and will again in 2018, while a new amphitheatre is constructed on the old site.

The double mainstages that festivalgoers had grown accustomed to over the past decade were separated and wound up face to face at either end of a long corridor. The four smaller venues were a bit more of a trek from the main stage than they had been in the past. Even the entrance seemed to take its time, winding through security checks, over a flight of stairs and around a corner before arriving at the main concert site.

On the bright side, the new venue did feature AstroTurf carpeting as opposed to rocky gravel and mud, though there were still a few puddles. There was a fun, bouncy Island Stage floating on the river, constructed especially for electronic music lovers, and the Tree Stage was appropriately tucked away on the far end for a spectrum of wild and weird bands like the strange, energetic rock spasms of Lemon Twigs.

Osheaga Play's contests, activities and art installations that decorated the old site were the same pleasant diversion, and of course the music, as it does every year, offered up something special for everyone, regardless of creed, culture, ethnic background or musical taste.

This year's headliners were an eclectic bunch, to say the least. Indie pop singer-songwriter Lorde was a bright light on a Friday marked by clouds, thunderstorms and heavy rain. Perennial rockers Muse ended Saturday with a living exclamation point of a show.

On the hip-hop side of things, heavy hitters Denzel Curry, Run the Jewels, Die Antwoord and Flatbush Zombies were all highly touted by festival-goers and delivered powerful performances that ran the gamut from psychedelic to socially aware to borderline insane.

Osheaga 2017's final performers were Canadian Hip-Hop artist The Weeknd, who wowed the massive crowd with his dark lyrics and angelic voice on la Scène de la Rivière, while Toronto rockers Death From Above brought heavy bass, synthesizers, drums and a cynical, laissez-faire attitude to la Scène Verte. Also included were heavy mosh pits and crowd surfing,

Other big names included Major Lazer, The Alabama Shakes, Cage The Elephant, Father John Misty, The Shins and Broken Social Scene, to name just a few.

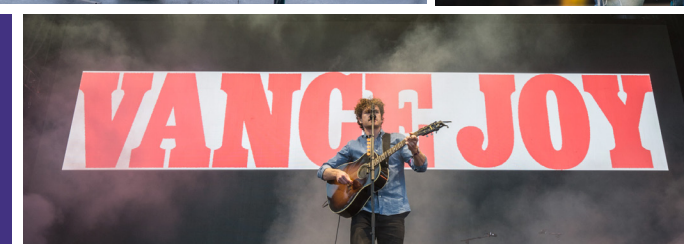


DAY 1

Ironically, it was the first day during the heavy rain that provided some of the most memorable moments. It showed who was there for the music, and who was there to party.

It was eerie seeing a torrential downpour come down on a crowd and yet no one run for cover during London Grammar's abbreviated set. It was like they were all frozen by Hannah Reid's haunting voice.

The weather broke shortly after that and I spent the rest of the day listening to bands from my high-school bucket list. I grew up idolizing The Shins and MGMT. To see them play live as an adult in a huge open-air venue was awe wrapped in nostalgia.



I grew up idolizing The Shins and MGMT. To see them play live as an adult in a huge open-air venue was **awe wrapped in nostalgia.**





Comité d'examen des répercussions
sur l'environnement et le milieu social

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COMEX is the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, established by chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec agreement.

It's mission is to review the environmental and social impacts of proposed development projects and make recommendations to the provincial and regional administrator of the Convention.

- Learn about it's procedures and composition
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Some projects currently under review that may interest you :

- Construction of forest roads by Barette-Chapais Ltée.: E West and extention of L209 North.
- Construction of new solid waste disposal facility in Waswanipi.
- Construction of wood pellet facility in Chapais by Rentech.

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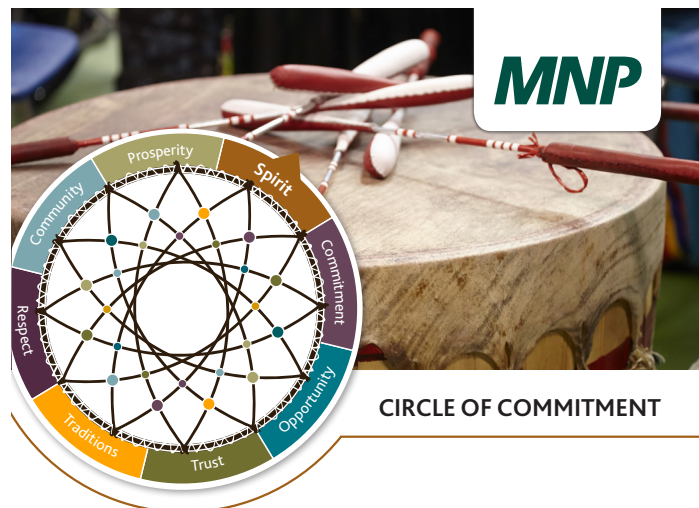
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Spirit Empowers All of Us

MNP congratulates Abel Bosum and Mandy Gull on their election as Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee.

As a leader in providing services centred around preserving Aboriginal values, we wish both of you the best of success in your new positions.

For more information, contact Gordon Leebosh, CPA, CA, CAFM, Partner, Aboriginal Services at 514.228.7775 or gordon.leebosh@mnp.ca

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DAY 2

Saturday started out looking like a great day for R&B and hip-hop fans until Solange Knowles cancelled her set due to "unforeseen production issues out of her and the festival's control." Then her replacement Lil Uzi Vert had trouble crossing the border and cancelled. His replacement, Tory Lanez, was late for his set.

Saturday still offered a lot for the indie and alternative rock fans. Liam Gallagher of Oasis, Cage The Elephant, Broken Social Scene, The Arkells, Father John Misty and Muse rocked the main stages while Choir! Choir! Choir! had everyone singing well into the night. It was an trippy way to end the evening, singing along with a hired act on a secondary stage, giving a tribute to the late Chris Cornell and belting out tunes like "I Want it that Way" by the Backstreet Boys.



DAY 3

The final day of Osheaga had perfect weather and a bevy of impressive bands to boot. Phantogram kicked it off, followed by Run The Jewels (touted as one of the best new rap/hip hop acts of 2016-17), and Montreal favourites Tegan and Sara. The day was capped off by an electric performance by The Weeknd. While he had the majority of the festival jammed in to hear his set on the main stage, rockers from Montreal and beyond moshed, slammed and crowd surfed to Death From Above.

Outshining all those impressive acts was co-headliner Alabama Shakes, in particular their lead singer, Britney Howard. Hearing her booming voice echo across the island brought chills to the spine and tears to the eyes. You heard it here first, she has one of the all-time great voices – right up there with Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles.



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Building the Cree way

by Errol Mianscum



It's always bothered me when I've seen our people in the construction industry make progress in building their own communities only for outside governing bodies to find ways to discourage Cree workers and contractors by imposing new rules on who can build what and what they need to build.

Thirty years ago, my community put up 75 family homes in one year. These houses were built by Cree hands, led by Cree foremen, managed by Cree leaders. Those houses still stand today alongside the new houses that were built under the new government licenses that were gradually imposed on us. These new regulations required a company to submit their bids under government laws: the contractor is required to have a specific license to work, and the contractor must have a field "leader" recognized by this governing body. Nowadays, a Cree worker is only allowed to take direction from these "recognized" field and project leaders and most times our workers can only do minimal work in "specialized contracts."

This is a never-ending cycle of discouraging our people. One by one, our Cree workforce and companies are gaining these required accreditations, licenses, and so on. But I'm sure there will be new rules and requirements that will again try to limit Cree roles on the

If this government can impose laws, then we should be allowed to impose **our own regulations!**

worksite or office. Discouragement. Outsiders want to divert profits away from our communities into their own pockets. This disrupts the growth of our economy.

Okay, now enough with "hating the system"! My solution? If this government can impose laws, then we should be allowed to impose our own regulations! Create our own governing body that will create policies and requirements that supports the progress of our workers in our Cree communities. Have this new governing body impose similar laws that the Commission de la construction du Québec and the Régie du bâtiment du Québec currently have for contractors to build in our territory. Recognize all hours recorded under the previous body, so that we don't have to start afresh.

How many of our people have achieved the required hours to reach that moment when you can write an exam loosely translated from the "official" language? This exam does not help the Cree worker. I find it very hard to believe that only a handful of our tradesmen are smart enough to get this. I've seen these individuals work and they are intelligent, on-the-

spot problem solvers and leaders. It's not hard to create our own governing body, most laws and policies are taken from existing laws anyways. We just write it so it reflects us. Is this lazy work? No, let's just say they wrote it for us to use when we would be ready to govern ourselves. Oh wait, we are there now! Now we may proceed.

This is in no way racially motivated but more focused on the governments that have given us these laws to follow on our land. We are in a time where we will see so much change. How we move forward is now under our control. This point is minor compared to many of the changes we will be part of, yet this empowerment will gain us the recognition and licensing we need to continue building our nation with our own hands.

I sure would like to see a band administrative building that resembles more of a Cree government. Mind you, some of our communities have already started looking more Cree. We must continue to break free from the laws we were "taught" to obey and continue rebuilding our nation one home at a time with the laws that reflect Cree life.

hôtel Espresso

Montréal Centre-Ville / Downtown

Hotel Espresso would like to congratulate the newly elected Grand chief and Deputy Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Mandy Gull. We look forward to our continued relationship with the Cree Nation, and are sure Abel and Mandy's leadership will be nothing short of exceptional.

624, 3^e Avenue, Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1S5
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reception@creenation-at.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS!

The Secretariat wishes to congratulate
Dr. Abel Bosum, Grand Chief
and Ms. Mandy Gull,
Deputy Grand Chief.

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Facebook - a modern dilemma

by Xavier Kataquapit



I am not a fan of Facebook but after waiting by the sidelines for years I have finally broken down and joined the foray. I did so out of sheer necessity as being on Facebook makes it easier for me to get in touch with people for writing projects. My big fear in joining this social media online feeding frenzy was that it would take away from my privacy and open the floodgates to contact with hundreds of people.

The fact is that as soon as I opened up an account under my name I received a deluge of friend requests when all I wanted to do was to have a presence to help access information and photos and to provide one more avenue for people to read my work.

Suddenly, I was faced with a dilemma. What on earth do I do with all of these people coming out of my past – many that I do not even know very well – wanting to be my friend on Facebook? Don't get me wrong: I like people and find it wonderful in a big picture way that so many would want to befriend me. Still, I also realize that Facebook is a very strange type of friend contact.

Many people I know have Facebook accounts that boast hundreds of friends, dozens of photos and there seems to be a lot of very frequent postings that detail every part of their daily activities, thoughts and actions. I don't really understand this. I am not sure many of us really get what Facebook is. Considering that a decade or so ago hardly anyone knew about this phenomena, today we all find ourselves tied to Facebook in one way or another through work, family and friends. It is as though Facebook always existed and was a daily part of our existence.

I think there are many good things about Facebook but the fact remains that it is a very powerful media, marketing, data collection tool that has captured most of us. Most of us don't real-

It is as though Facebook **always existed** and was a daily part of our existence.

ly realize how far reaching Facebook is in terms of creating profiles that are shared with huge companies that target us with their products. A couple of decades ago, companies spent millions of dollars every year trying to find out what we like, dislike, love and hate; now we offer up that information freely every single day in great detail.

The data collection also poses a problem in terms of what governments and the people who control Facebook can do with all the information we share and that is shared to us on Facebook. In many ways Facebook fits nicely into many science fiction books I have read about dark worlds where people have no privacy, no free thought and were bound by lives dedicated to those in power. The books 1984 and Brave New World come to mind.

Many of us don't realize that the information we share about ourselves is documented forever in our Facebook postings. For those of us who are young and starting careers, Facebook is the go-to source for information on us by potential employers, the government and of course those that want to sell us everything from a pill to an automobile.

Facebook can also be a very nasty medium for some people to vent their anger or discredit others. This happens a lot. We should all be mindful that the same rules of law regarding slander and libel apply to people who say things about others on social media. You have to be careful what you say about others because you could end up in court being sued for your comments and the proof is right there in print on social media.

Social media plays a role in connecting us but it is up to us to decide just how much we want this to dominate our lives. If you find yourself going to your Facebook as soon as you wake in the morning or many times during the day to check out what everyone is doing or to let the world know what you are up to, perhaps it is time to step back. Maybe reading a newspaper in the morning, listening to a good radio show, calling up a friend on your phone to chat for a few minutes or walking out to visit someone would be healthier for your mind and body. There are a lot of very smart, rich people making money on our love of Facebook.



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